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The Voice of the University of Toronto at Mississauga

THE MEDIUM



VOLUME 29 ISSUE 19

February 10, 2003

Lion of fortune



The Erindale Chinese Students' Association (ECSA) hosted a lion dance performance in the Student Centre last week in honour of the Chinese New Year. The lion dance symbolizes good fortune in coming years. Story on page 3. photo/ECSA

Career centre seeks funding

Health Services to retain current budget

BY DANIEL FILIPE MARTINS

In a recent budget proposal, UTM's Career Centre proposed an increase in the funding it presently receives from the University of Toronto. With the help of a greater influx of monies, it is hoped that there will be improved current services and an expansion in the Centre's abilities to deal with the double cohort, which is expected in the fall.

The Career Centre's budget proposal requested a drastic increase in funding, from the current \$ 273,700 to \$ 700,000 by the 2006-07 academic year. The majority of the new funds would be allocated to paying the salaries of a greatly expanded Career Centre staff of professional career counsellors, administrators and students. The new positions would include a new, full time career counsellor, an event planner and ten new student employees.

The budget also allows for a major expansion of Career Centre facilities, specifically more resources and updated or new office equipment. The Centre's present five-year plan also aims to hire at least two new career counsellors (one of whom would specialise in careers in the sciences) and a career development officer, among others, by the 2006-07

Services continued on page 3

Parking prices to drastically increase

BY JULIE TYIOS

A solution to UTM's persistent parking problems may soon be reached after much ongoing debate. As a pri-

marily commuting campus, parking spaces are in high demand and short supply on campus. Parking on campus is so sparse at the moment that there exists a 30% ratio of parking spots to students. Parking problems will worsen unless something is done immediately, especially with the advent of next year's double cohort, which will put a higher demand on places to park. Also, enrollment will increase by as much as 60% over the next few years, making the lack of spaces a pressing problem that has to be dealt with immediately.

Currently, administration is attempting to expand the number of available parking spaces by building a five-level underground parking garage where the new CCIT building is being built. This garage is estimated to be completed and opened around January of 2004. This, however, will cause a drastic increase in price of such a pass. The projected amount of a reserved underground pass in the near future will be approximately \$800. Also, due to construction in lot 9, many unreserved spaces are unavailable for use this

year. So while there are 1,412 unreserved spaces on campus, there are approximately 2,675 passes registered for use. "Safety issues are becoming a major concern," stated Len Paris, Manager of Police Services on campus. "In terms of our ten-year plan, this September is going to be the worst, as the parking ratio will drop close to 22.2% because of construction and increased enrollment. We're encouraging students to allow more time to get to class and to arrive earlier to find a space in order to decrease the amount of accidents that are occurring."

On December 12, 2002, a working group to advise on parking strategy meeting was held on campus to discuss many aspects of the parking situation on campus. Sean O'Connell, Erindale College Student Union (ECSU) Vice President of Finance, was among those present. He noted that the meeting differed from others in the way that it addressed such issues as carpooling, class scheduling and making better use of existing lots. "I personally feel that the meeting was more productive in

Preservation continued on page 2



Parking lots on campus continue to be full and parking availability is projected to worsen as prices for passes increase. photo/Mehraan Pavri

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK
 "We've finally addressed the right issues here, being the preservation of green-space on campus and having a minimal impact on our environment."
 -Paul Donoghue



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Rocco hosts Baby Blue



SAC Prez Rocco Kusi-Achampong gives us the ok on Baby Blue Soundcrew Friday night at the pub. The free event was hosted by Achampong, who stepped up to the mike instead of Jon Lee. *photo/Mehraan Pavri*

Preservation of green space a priority on campus

continued from front

suggesting new ways of tackling the parking problem rather than just being a question of us paying more or not," he stated. He also suggested students make use of lot 9 behind the South Building, in which spaces can usually be found. Accessibility to the lot, however, can be difficult. "By next year, we will have a pathway from lot 9 to the rear of the South Building, most likely leading to the CABB building," said Sol Kessler, Facility Resource Manager at UTM.

The demand for parking, coupled with incorporated building costs for lots will only serve to increase the price of a pass drastically each year. According to regulations set by both the Erindale College Council (ECC) and the Governing Council (GC), the costs of construction must be regained after five years and a profit shown by seventh year following the completion of any construction on campus.

"Soon, students will pay almost as much for a parking spot as for a credit"

— Adil Mirza

Reserved passes will jump from about \$490 in 2003-04 to well over \$1000 by the time the 2009 school year starts, whereas unreserved passes will be around \$370 next year and up to or beyond \$800 by 2009. "The price for the parking permits for next year have not yet been approved by the College Council and therefore are tentative upon that approval," reassured Elizabeth Zammit, Parking & Transportation Co-Ordinator. She also indicated that next year's day passes will hover around the \$10 mark. On campus visitors may have to pay as much as \$20 to visit UTM for a day starting in 2007.

Many students are upset with this year's prices and find it frustrating to find parking every day. "I paid almost \$400 for parking, yet there are never enough spaces, especially near the North Building," complained Elisa Nobrega, a second-year student. "A few times when there were no spots available I tried parking at the end of rows because I needed to get to class and there was nowhere else to go, and each time I received at least a \$20 ticket from campus police for it. What a bitch!"

Although there is a need for more parking on campus in light of UTM's expansion through aspects such as the "Master Plan" and the double cohort, the future expansion poses a major threat to remaining campus green space. Several alternatives are available to increase parking while preserv-

ing the environment, including multi-level parking garages both above and below ground and 'green' parking lots with a grass surface.

Lot expansion is a \$32 million possibility that will cut down on green space, whereas adding garages under existing structures such as the library will have less of an impact on the surrounding environment, but will have a higher price tag, nearing \$50 million in projected building costs, which will make the actual passes expensive. "Off-campus parking lots were not a feasible option," said Chief Administrative Officer Paul Donoghue. "A shuttle bus to bring students on campus would cost upwards of \$150,000 per school year and there were major safety concerns as well. We've gone with pay versus pave. We've finally addressed the right issues here, being the preservation of green-space on campus and having a minimal impact on our environment," he explained.

"We decided there would have to be a rate increase for parking, and build a structure which would minimize the space needed for it," explained Professor Nicholas Collins. "There was strong support on all committees to keep these motions going. We are going to have to pay to maintain the positive aspects of our campus, but it's not nearly as much as students as other universities pay to park so close," he added.

Profits from parking previously had gone into the College Operating Budget, but there have been new initiatives set forward to put these profits towards creating carpool programs and alleviating environmental concerns. "Carpooling is a great idea," agreed Aubrey Iwaniw, President of the Erindale Environmental Association. "It saves money and cuts down on hazardous emissions in the atmosphere as well. Air pollution is a big problem which must be addressed within our community."

ECSU President Adil Mirza, part of the Transportation and Parking Subcommittee, is dismayed at the current situation: "Students are paying for a service and they're definitely not getting their money's worth. Soon, students will pay almost as much for a parking spot as for a credit. We're a suburban commuter campus and students need a way to get here and get to class."

Sufficient public transportation and an effective carpooling program will hopefully help to relieve the problems we're experiencing sometime within the near future." Until the completion of the proposed plans are put forth, however, students must continue to fight each day to make use of the passes they've paid several hundred dollars for.

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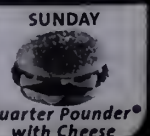
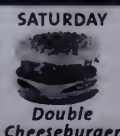
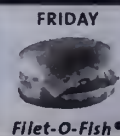
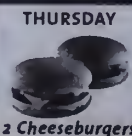
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Services need more funding for expansion

continued from front academic year.

Career Centre Manager Joan McCurdy-Myers said that she hoped that the proposed new changes outlined in the budget proposal would suffice to prepare the Centre for the double cohort, arriving in September of this year.

She also stressed just how important the Career Centre is to UTM students in general and to first-year students in particular. "[The Career Centre] helps students learn how to develop career goals," she said. "It provides services and events to give them a range of opportunities to gather information on possible careers...it's not a one shot deal, it's an ongoing experience."

McCurdy-Myers also noted that even with its current budget, the Career Centre has begun to struggle to meet present demand for its services. "We've started hitting walls," she noted. "For example: In January [this year], we couldn't fulfill all requests for resumé critiques. Also,

we wanted to expand the career expo [last term], but we weren't able to."

In contrast to the Career Centre, Health Services Manager Patricia Ash said that Health Services would not seek a similar budget increase, although Health Services have not received a funding increase for eleven years.

"[The Career Centre] is not a one shot deal, it's an on-going experience"

—Joan McCurdy Myers

Instead, Health Services will rely on increased funds obtained from overall tuition revenues, of which Health Services receives a set percentage. However, this is not to say that the Health Centre has given up on the idea entirely- Ash said that she "would warn QSS [Quality Service for Students] that we would likely

ask for an increase next year."

She also acknowledged that although she would postpone any requests for an enlarged budget, she and her staff nonetheless have plans for much-needed improvements. The largest problem is the very limited space allocated to Health Services. "We have nowhere to grow and that limits our activities," she said.

Current space in the Health Centre is not sufficient to support two doctors simultaneously. "We [also] want to increase the number of nursing hours," she went on to say. "We hope to increase the hours to accommodate a busier school year. Of course, space is also a factor."

In addition, Ash said that the department wished to sponsor greater outreach programs. "We want to establish a bigger, better presence in terms of supporting, sponsoring and participating in events."

Both Health Services and the Career Centre funding is provided by students through incidental fees in enrollment.

Lion dance celebrates new year

BY VICTOR WONG

On Tuesday, February 4th, crowds gathered in the Student Centre to get a little taste of the Chinese New Year Celebration. With the help from Chung Wah Chinese Kung Fu International Research Centre, the Erindale Chinese Students' Association (ECSA) was able to present to fellow students a live Lion Dance performance.

As a massive lion costume danced to the pounding of a drum in the Student Centre, several students watched in awe. The performance, which began at the Info-desk, ended on the stage in the Blind Duck Pub. The event, which was held last minute, had an attendance of approximately 50 students. "Although there was short notice for the event, I was pleased to see that students showed interest and partook in our celebration.

The lion dance performance symbolizes good fortune in the coming year, which is what we wish to all students," said ECSA President Thomas Ho. Also, the dance is symbolic as it encompasses both entertainment and ceremony in the Chinese culture.

Following the performance, the audience also viewed a short martial arts demonstration courtesy of instructors from the Chung Wah Chinese Kung Fu International Research Centre. Some of the demonstrations included self-defense techniques and the breaking of wooden blocks.

The tradition of the Chinese New Year celebration with colour and dancing is the end result of an ancient myth. Legend has it that a horrible monster called "Nian" was allowed to have one day of freedom on every New Year's Eve. Nian had the body of a buffalo, the head of a lion, and characteristics of a

unicorn. Every New Year's Eve, the monster would come around to villages and destroy all in sight. Eventually, the village people learned that the color red, loud noises and the flashing lights created by fireworks would scare away this monster. People began to use red objects like red lanterns, and red papers filled with writings to decorate their properties. In addition, they would light up strings of fireworks making long lasting popping sounds. All these endeavors were used to scare away Nian. Chinese people continue to use these old traditions not to scare anyone away, but in hopes of bringing good fortune to their own household.

Ho expressed joy at the success of the event: "I am happy to see that people really enjoyed our celebration, and I hope that ECSA is able to bring more entertainment and events for our fellow students in the near future."

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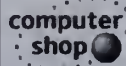
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MSA hosts week-long 'issues affecting humanity' on campus

BY JULIE TYIOS

Last week, the Muslim Students Association (MSA) hosted an event named 'Issues Affecting Humanity', which addressed world issues. Throughout the week, each day held a different theme revealing varying problems that surrounds us. One event was labeled 'The Shelter Experience' - an interactive display set up where students could walk in and experience what it would be like to live life as a refugee. Also, movies were shown regarding the ongoing problems faced by individuals living in Iraq. Another theme was 'Environment Day', which focused on ways humans damage their surrounding world and ways of prevention. 'The Anti-

Racism' day promoted peace and understanding amongst people of different cultures and races. There was also a lecture on Friday night by speaker Khalid Griggs entitled 'Shades of Grey', which held a sub-heading that was part of the MSA's theme for the week- "There is no black or white, only shades of grey."

'The Shelter Experience' allowed students to develop better understanding of refugee life and provided information about the current situation in Iraq involving sanctions and endured suffering. "Killing one is murder, but killing thousands is called Foreign Policy," said student Moneeza Ahmed. Documentaries were played in the Presentation Room all day which highlighted Iraq's war torn past, present and future. Students were also invited

to walk into a makeshift shelter with minimal provisions that was set up. "Despite trying to emulate what it's like to live in a refugee camp, we were not successful enough. The reality of it is hard to comprehend and duplicate," said Amer Meknas of UTM MSA Internal Relations. In the evening, a 1-2-3 dinner was held, where by random numbers, people were fed according to their status, being from a third-world, second-world or first world country.

"The amount of food we throw away each day would feed an entire family."

A student from the University of Waterloo who had the opportunity to visit refugees in Chechnya gave a speech and recounted his story and the conditions in which the people there live everyday. "Ankle-deep mud... wearing their only clothes which have not been washed in over three years, not able to brush their teeth, no healthcare available at all, it's truly awful," he said. "Children there smile from ear to ear if they are given a bowl of rice with some water to eat, and look at all we have. The amount of food we throw away each day would feed an entire family."

The 'Environment Day' focused on issues currently affecting the ecosystem.

Representatives from the MSA handed out hot chocolate in complementary mugs to promote a reusable and eco-friendly alternative to the hundreds of disposable styrofoam and paper cups that are used on campus each day. The Erindale Environmental Association (EEA) was also on hand to help spread awareness on ways people can minimize their impact on

the environment. "We're enlightening students about environmental awareness," stated EEA spokesperson and President Aubrey Iwaniw. "We're encouraging students to get involved around campus with one of our Green Teams to help make our campus as environmentally friendly as possible. We're dedicated to raising awareness on campus and we're glad we had the opportunity to be here today, there's so much each of us can do to help make our world a better place to live."

The 'Anti-Racism' day focused on educating students about diversity and different cultures. Various collage posters made by members of the MSA featuring prominent leaders in the fight against racism were on display featuring famous quotes. Students were invited to sign a large poster entitled 'Stop Racism!'. There was a positive response from students in general about the various posters and displays that were set up in the hallway of the Student Centre. "I found them really informative. It's good for people to be aware of the issues affecting our world today," said third-year student Beth Conklin. Various

posterboards with titles such as 'Biodiversity', 'Crisis in Palestine' and 'Stop the War on Children' could be viewed. There was also a clothing drive, free food and mug giveaways and informative pamphlets. "Our purpose was to raise awareness about some issues that we often neglect to think about and act upon," said Mohamed Alarakhia of MSA External Affairs. "Islam is a motivation for us to raise awareness about such issues, and a complete way of life that teaches us to care for our fellow human beings, to respect and be cognizant of our environment, and to value personal qualities, such as piety, rather than the color of someone's skin. People that originate from all places around the world can live in peace."

"It really makes you think," said Erindale College Student Union (ECSU) Vice President of Finance, Sean O'Connell. "Things are happening around the globe each day that the majority of us aren't even aware of, which does nothing to help these situations. We need to be informed if we're going to attempt to solve these issues."



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The 'Shelter Experience' in the Student Centre attempted to emulate life in a refugee camp for students. photo/Mehraan Pavri



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of the week**

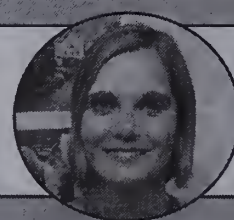
**"What is the worst job
you've ever had?"**

"Dusting china at Robert
Macintosh, a furniture
store."



Lisa Pellegrino,
Second-year
student

Rebecca Luffman,
third-year student



"House keeping!
Cleaning other
peoples shit"

"Working as Photo editor
for the Medium. My boss is
a bitch!"



Mehraan Pavri,
second-year student

Michelle Rabba,
Fifth-year
student



"Editor in Chief of the
Medium. My photo editor
is incompetent"

photo/Mehraan Pavri



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EDITORIAL

THE MEDIUM

VOLUME 29 ISSUE 19 CIRCULATION 5000 FEBRUARY 10, 2003

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Parking increase inevitable

UTM's favourite dilemma, parking, is again an issue on campus. While the parking situation is presently problematic, it is expected to worsen next year with the incoming double cohort and the school's expansion. An easy solution to the lack of spaces on campus would be to build more parking lots. But we can't, because paving lots would be harmful to the green space on campus. The environment and nature that is prevalent on campus is a main factor that draws students to UTM. Also, by prioritizing green space on campus, we will avoid having our campus look like a pavement and structure based university such as York in the future.

So, we look at another option, which would be building parking garages, underground or aboveground. Yet with these big, spacious parking garages come expenses that will result in the cost of a parking pass to drastically increase over the years. So, even if UTM provided a multitude of parking spaces that would make finding a parking spot a cinch, the cost of that parking spot will be the focus of criticism and objection. Although the construction of garages isn't the most feasible option for students, it is, however, one that is possible and environmentally viable.

Paul Donoghue, Chief Administrative Officer said "we've gone with pay versus pave." And there couldn't be a more appropriate title. Paving the area would be a cheaper option in providing parking to students. But, we want our green space. So, we have no choice but to build parking garages, which is provided for at a significant cost increase. If we were to pave, administration would have to face high criticism in reducing green space on campus. There is no winning option. Parking cost increase is inevitable and unavoidable. Also, realistically, even if students adamantly opposed an increase in the cost of a parking pass, chances are their opposition will be over-ruled, as exhibited in last years increase.

Students have always and will always complain about parking costs, much like they will always complain about the cost of education. Also, it's worthwhile to mention that even with the increase in prices next year, the year after and so forth, the cost of a parking pass is still cheaper than most universities. U of T will eventually make a profit on increasing the price. But that profit will come after seven years, of which they will only be breaking even after the fifth year. Does it surprise students that the university will in turn make a profit? It shouldn't. The school has to make a profit. A school can't exist on breaking even or maintaining a level of incoming funds. To offer more resources and a better school to students, the university at some point has to yield more funds. U of T isn't just an academic institution, it is a business. Their interest isn't to provide students with the best resources at a discount price. And any student who believes otherwise is either incredibly naïve or pathetically hopeful.

So yes, parking is a pain in the ass to find on campus. Yes, the cost of parking will drastically increase over time. Students who want a better school with more resources and facilities unfortunately have to pay the price, which comes courtesy with a U of T degree.

The Medium is published weekly by Medium II Publications, a non-profit, incorporated student organization. The opinions expressed within are those of the writers and editors and do not necessarily reflect those of Medium II Publications. The Medium's mandate includes informing students of local and national concerns, and giving Erindale College students an opportunity to practice journalism. Blurry eyes courtesy of staring into computer screen.

Saturday: Wow, my first time in the office on a Sat. in a long time. This sucks. Romano came in with Kevin and we were entertained with the rump. Wow. Shep just came in. She looks like she had a rough night. Tamara came to visit and we were looking at wedding photos. I still think blue and silver is the best even though Jan will think his wedding is Maple Leaf themed. Darrin hockey of course. Sunday: Jan, me and Andrea in the office, having a laugh over stupid people. I'm giving her a lecture on being more forward. Frank, our editor and cartoonist, just dropped by and gave us a nice impression of J. Lo. I love the cartoon this week, by the way. Afternoon meeting time and we're just waiting on Darryl and Mehraan. Adil punked out on Talking Heads this week. hah hah hah. I hope your mom is feeling better Mehraan! Mehraan must have had a lot of coffee today. A.D.D anyone? Shep's not here to make fun of today. Can anyone other than Mehraan actually understand the words in my Reggie song? Andrea loves shiny damn hell. Darryl just gave Mehraan a dishtel of surprise to use for McDonalds. That'll help him pick up the checks. We all love a guy with a handful of coupons. My brothers are going to Cancun for Reading Week. Lucky! Just talked to Stefano. Sounds like he had fun last night while I was a loser and watched a movie for the third night in a row. Stupid movie too. That's ok. I had cupcakes with sprinkles on top. Almost 7:30 and Andrea is putting up. Darryl has a big mouth. A&E writers needed please! Thank god we have a week off for Reading week. Going to Ottawa. Valentines coming up. For the last week, all I've heard is this super dance tempo music playing their dance moves, and it's really getting fucking annoying. Take it to the Meeting Place please. I need some advil. Oh chur chur. Whatever. My eyes are getting blurry from staring at the screen. Bad sign. Have a good Reading Week everyone. 7 more to go!!!!



Student questions UTM's preparation

There has been a great deal of discussion in recent months over the imminent 'double cohort'. As a student in my last year at UTM, I am somewhat relieved that I am leaving this year. Although I did enjoy my experiences at Erindale, I am still unsure as to what direction this campus is headed. I am concerned for students who will be entering the Ontario university system over the next few years, having to pay higher tuition than ever in the past, and who may experience a decreased level of educational standards.

It doesn't seem that UTM is prepared to take on additional students over the next two years, as a result of the double cohort. And I am definitely apprehensive as to whether we can sustain a 60% population growth by 2007.

In a recent issue of the Medium, Dean of Students Affairs and former Registrar Mark Overton stated UTM

will accept increased amounts of new students based on what "we [UTM] think we can reasonably accommodate with what we have available." Currently, it appears our campus is not sufficiently able to accommodate our current population.

This is evident from our lack of parking, lack of residence, lack of study space on campus, difficulty in scheduling counseling appointments at the Registrar's office, mediocre athletics facilities that should have been improved years ago and our library that often causes students the need to go the St. George libraries. As well, excessive line-ups can be seen all over the campus, including Tim Horton's, the lone bank machine in South Building that is more often than not out of order, the Bookstore, the Registrar's office and Spiegel Hall.

The CCIT building, which is being built to "accommodate a

multitude of students," will not be completed by September 2003, when the largest impact of the double cohort will be felt.

And the addition of Residence, Phase VII should have come long ago.

The addition of 200 beds this fall is excellent; however we still have a shortage of residence space, mainly for senior students due to U of T's residence guarantee for all first-year students.

I wish I could share the youthful optimism expressed by ECSU President Adil Mirza when he stated "I trust U of T will continue to uphold its standards." A lot of work needs to be done in order to be adequately prepared for the increased growth UTM is facing. I'm just not sure if it's being done.

Sincerely,
 Pooja Jadvani

Students can still fill passports

Dear Editor,

It is that time of the year when students are busy trying to cope with the stress of assignments and midterms that loom overhead as Reading Week creeps closer and closer with every passing day. It is, however, equally important to keep year end goals in mind as it is all too easy to be caught up in all the hustle and bustle of life here at UTM. One of the goals of many is to complete the Blue U of T Passport book handed out early on in the year. For those that don't know, the Passport Program is a tri campus initiative from Student Affairs that was introduced to help create awareness and involvement within the university community. The Passport Program encourages and rewards students for learning about the services offered at U of T and getting involved. There are a total of seventeen stamps that need to be collected to complete the book and many of these stamps most students have already earned for doing day to day activities. Students are rewarded for attending orientation, seminars or workshops that improve student's lives from study skills at the Academic Skills Centre to a Library Instructional Workshop.

There are also stamps for being a member of a club and taking a leadership role at the university. There are events everywhere that students can attend and are eligible for a reward. Attending an event such as the Toronto Symphony Orchestra is just one of many that you can take advantage of and get stamped for. Collect all the stamps and then be eligible for many of the great Prizes and Awards. Students completing the entire passport will receive a letter from the President of U of T for completing the program, some form of a U of T prize pack as well as be entered into a draw to win a new computer.

As you can see, there are many reasons to successfully complete the program. Now come by the Student Centre and visit the SC Events office, room 250 and pick up a Passport Book today. Also, visit the passport website at www.passport.utoronto.ca for any questions or concerns. You will be thankful for the experience and the rewards that come with it.

Sincerely,
 Ali Shahabuddin
 Asst. Programmer, SCEvents

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OPINION

UTM's master plan not so glamorous and practical

This is just an opinion on UTM and its "Master Plan." UTM has always been inept when it comes to the administration, no doubt; in just about every aspect of it. I graduated UTM in 2001. When I arrived at UTM, students had left that had already paid a year or so worth in incidental fees meant for the construction of the Student Centre—which wasn't completed until the beginning of my third year (completion was promised for before I would begin at UTM). Let me tell you, it's not only this, but a continuous number of things that are planned for by UTM in this student-dependant manner.

The administrative jobs at UTM are too cushy. I am familiar with most, if not all of them, and what the people in such positions do (or not do for that matter). There are also too many of them. UTM, much like the "Big Blue Machine," as I like to call the U of T, is riddled with bodies of governance of this or that, here and there, perpetually overlapping and continuously padded with useless appointments of individuals who do much of the same for each body: nothing. A frightening

number of them are not the sharpest of Ginsu's either.

The UTM administration seems to be bent on doing nothing more than necessary, leaving it up to the students to carry the college along in its "Master Plan's." The CCIT building, the projected athletic facilities, the residences, and all the rest, will, no doubt, mostly be carried by students, as promises of corporate funds to cover half or greater of the necessary costs are, like usual, slowly eroded out of reference in critical meetings by "the Higher Ups" as time passes. I know; I was there before the fresh ink settled on the primary steps. In fact, I helped a large part of them carry on in the way they have. Not something I'm proud of, but really couldn't see around at the time, even from the "inside." I don't expect you to see much of what really goes on from where you sit, but perhaps I can at least intrigue you.

All the promised facilities are only distant fantasies in my estimations anyway. Though the CCIT building had the funding for the actual structure, I happened to overhear relevant

administration members fumbling over explanations for where the funding for the instructors that would teach the courses there was to come from. The projected athletic facilities were also promised and "planned" with only an outline for sucking money from current and future students with incidental fee hikes, and, as I mentioned, only promises of corporate sponsorship to cover the other approximately 60% of the funds required to even think of going ahead with building them.

"Where the U of T is getting confused is that education is not supposed to be a business"

Guess who's gonna cover that cost if good old UTM doesn't come through with enough sponsorship? Sure as hell not the government, since they give exactly zero funding towards athletic facilities, and the amount of money the

government will give to UTM for other facilities is on a "per/student growth" basis, meaning they will only compensate for as much as UTM can grow in student body. That's why UTM promises, of course, to accept as many students as possible, not to show they are so willing to take these students, but because they desperately need the government funding that will come with them, not to mention all the new faces they sucker with all the fee hikes.

That's right, payments for the promised facilities will no doubt be worked into a plan much like those of all UTM construction plans, from continually raking increasing amounts of money from students who will come and go without ever seeing the fruits of their incidental fees. This isn't just a possibility— it's already been going on.

In short, don't expect too much from the grand promises of parking lots and drastically upgraded athletic facilities, residences being put up over night, or any other such miracles that UTM promises, unless of course you plan on living the rest of your life in or around UTM, since it's only these people that

will ever see the benefits.

Isn't it ideal though: use a peripheral campus, one most students only stick around for 3 or 4 years, just long enough to nab that infamous U of T degree, and use this want of theirs to lure them into feeding a community of a select few who will spend their careers at UTM, enjoying the facilities provided them by many a generation of students out-gone, most of whom would never even see the idea of what they were paying for, without ever having to lift a finger to make the immediate situation better for the immediate constituency.

"Before a large enough group of students could give a shit to organize something to be done, they'd be long graduated and will have paid numbers of dollars for the cause..."

And who will complain? You? I don't think so, unless you're one of the 5 to 10%, in my estimation, that are gonna be here long enough to make complaining worthwhile. Come my sheep, come to UTM.

But perhaps my ranting will only be relevant until about the year 2008 or 2009, when the "now" or "hereto" promised facilities might actually be up, running, and settled in. But who the hell knows what kind of malfunctions will have developed to complain about by that time. And trust me on this if you can conceive of doing so, but the administration can at best be found reaching to evade the criticisms developed hereto; not founded without grounds I assure you.

Regardless of what anyone might try to convince you, or what you may be reluctant to hesitate from thinking, this article is not just about a bitter student. When I say not "just," I mean exactly that, because of course there is the feeling of bitterness. But that's the entire point. People know they might get screwed investing their money in the market and big business or whatever.

Where the U of T is getting confused, is that education is not supposed to be a business, or at least in this day and age not more so than a right. Students aren't "clients." Attempting to make the most money off of them for the least expense to be suffered by the institution is not the precept to be running by, at least, in my humble opinion. Though by now you've probably sensed nothing humble about it.

But the U of T will never have to worry about you doing much about the situation anyway. Before a large enough group of students could give a shit to organize something to be done about it, they'd be long graduated and will have paid numbers of dollars for the cause in their blissfully blind passage through UTM and the razzle and dazzle of its "Master Plans."

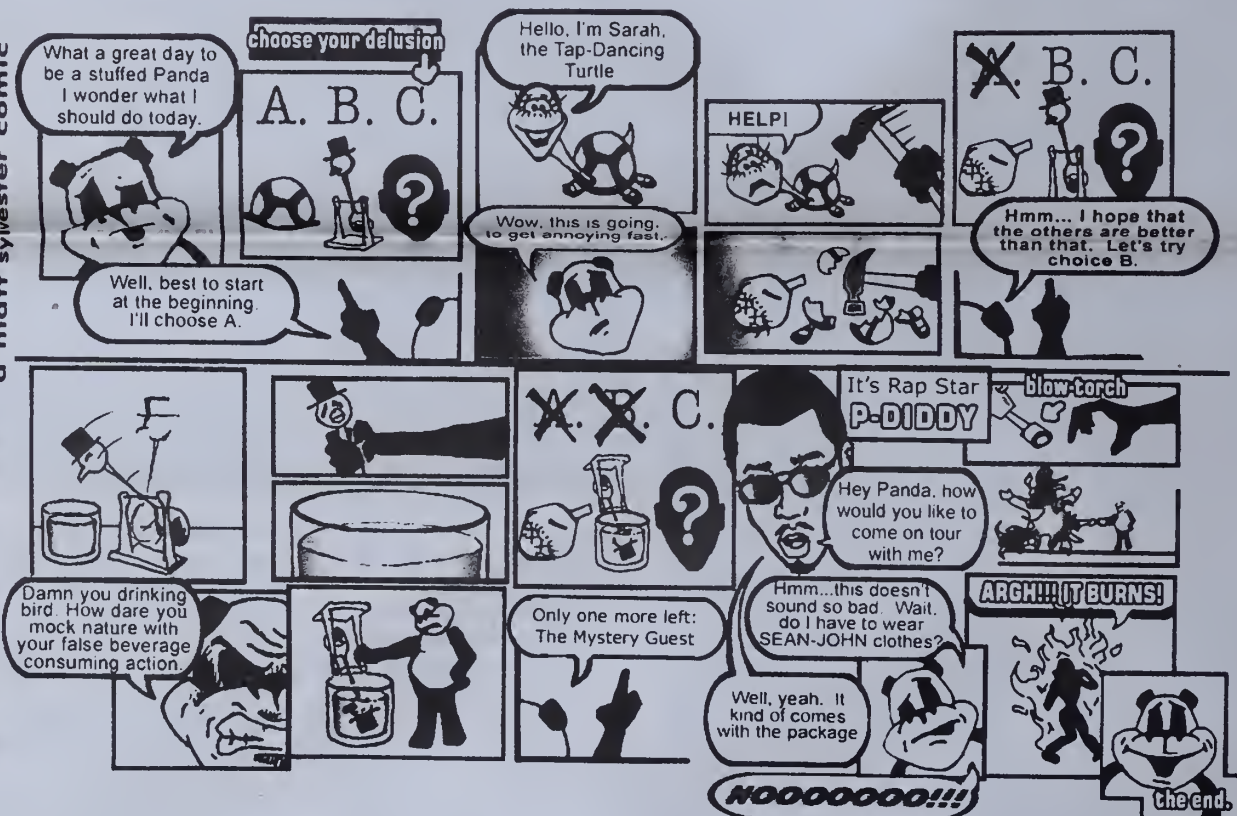
Those students in a position to do something about it that also know enough about what goes on will hardly do anything either. They'd be "burning their bridges," as it were, in raising even the slightest of their own suspicions as to whether or not any of the type of things that I'm suggesting go on at UTM are even remotely close to the truth.

Sincerely,

Just another one who bit the dust.

Schizophrenic Panda's Return

a matt sylwester comic



FEATURES

Long-distance couples face hardships

BY JOHANNA KRISTOLAITIS

This Friday is a special day for many people. Lovers, old and young, will gaze into each other's eyes and be glad to spend this Valentine's Day together. However, some couples aren't that lucky. Their Valentines are in different cities.

Many university students have the misfortune of being in a long-distance relationship. It seems to come with this time of life. Some people meet before they start their post-secondary education; some meet during the summer or Christmas breaks; some meet where one half of the couple goes to school, only to find the other one isn't staying there. There are many stories of how and when couples met, but the hardships they face afterwards are a

common story.

Living apart from your significant other is very tough on the relationship. Not only do you have to deal with missing each other all the time, but the time you do get together is often short, maybe a full weekend, if you're lucky. Although you want to spend every waking moment cuddled in each other's arms, this is not usually possible. Instead, this precious time together can be interrupted by any number of little concerns, such as school work, grocery shopping, party time, and more.

Another concern for the long-distance couple is growing apart. Everyone is always changing, but we rarely notice when we see people every day. People can change and grow together when they are a regular

part of each other's lives, but living apart brings the danger of changing and drifting apart as well. It takes extra effort to continue to grow together.

Cost is an issue for many people in long-distance relationships. Not that any would rather save money than see their sweetie, but long-distance phone bills and travel expenses do add up. Sometimes couples just can't afford to get together or even chat as often as they would like, especially on top of the regular university costs of tuition, books, accommodation, etc.

With all of these problems, people often ask why and how long-distance couples can stay together over time. The answer is simply, slightly cheesy and cliché: love can travel any distance.

POBRYC

Recipe for Baking
Successful Relationship
Cookies

BY KIM DIEP

Add two people
Mix a dash of hormones
Beat in a pinch of trust
Grind in honesty
Scramble a cup of affection
Knead in attention
Preheat the relationship oven

Allow relationship to rise for a few months

Serve hot.

Heart's Decay

BY ADRIANNA PROSSER

A heart's whimper is a dull sound indeed,
But to hear it sing loud and tremulous
Above nagging thought and treacherous
creed,
Akin to an oath, heav'n's do hear me thus.
Forget regret or the child I shall play,
Student to that which is danger to learn,
A love or simply lust it's hard to say
That this unknown is what I do so yearn.
My tongue, out of tune, in happy discord
With my heart that aches to be heard alone.
O, but in a harmony could I afford
To loose myself and escape the fated crone.
Come composer for employment for life,
Conduct mine heart and I shall be thy wife.



forever?

BY TRISHA WELDEN

When all around, love seems to cause
disaster,
I realize that our love's truly rare;
I catch my breath and my heart beats much
faster
And all because I see you standing there.
I look at those around me, mourning love,
And wish I could pass our love on to them.
As if our joy was like rain from above
That could be shower'd down, a sparkling
gem.
And yet when I see all of those in pain
From having loved and lost more than can
bear,
I wonder if my fate will be the same,
If I, with them, my salty tears will share.
Although I pray your love will constant be,
I cannot help but, seeing them, see me.

EXPRESS YOURSELF!!

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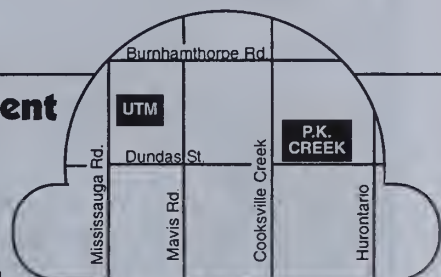
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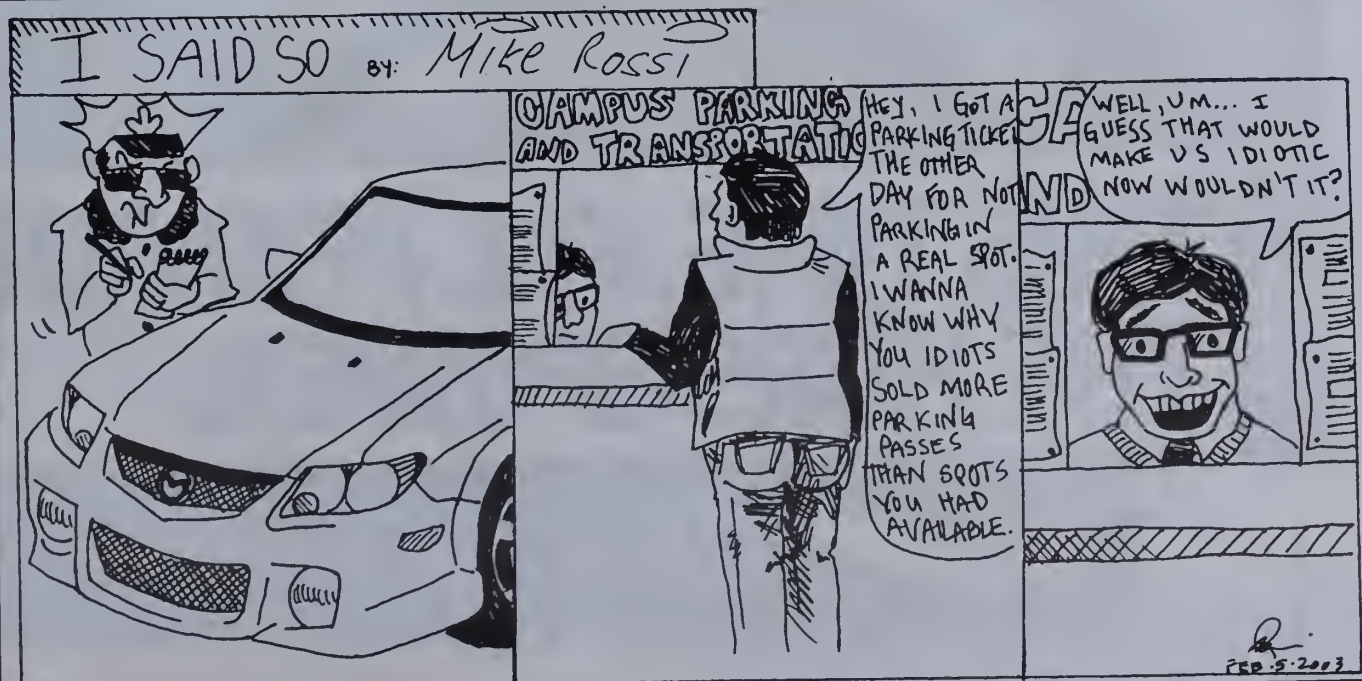
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Traveling through India brings many adventures

BY SHAUN MEHTA

I am an East Indian born and raised in Toronto who traveled to Southern India for the first time. As an aspiring writer the dynamic sub-continent fascinated and inspired me. During my 8-month stint in the country, I completed an exchange at the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB), an internship at Infosys Technologies in Mysore, and found some time to travel and write. Through my journey, I grew to love the people and land, despite having a few misadventures along the way. I hope you enjoy some of my travel logs:

TRAVEL LOG #1

Exchange at Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB) September – October 2001

– I was in the mess (cafeteria) the day I arrived to the campus. A man with a curly bushy mustache wearing army fatigues drove in on a motorcycle, and roared straight into the kitchen. I seemed to be the only one perturbed by this, and asked a fellow student who told me nonchalantly that the driver was a retired Indian commando who had become the head chef. This man used the kitchen as a garage. I paused for a moment to digest this news and thought of the diesel fumes that were probably embedded in my curry. I shrugged and continued eating. I am realizing that anything is possible in India.

– I was taking a public non-air-conditioned bus on my way back from a job interview, and I swore I must have lost a few months of my life. All the windows and doors to the bus were open because of the incredible heat. I was suffocating from the black fumes spewing from the traffic. It was so bad that I felt dizzy and nauseous; I felt as though I had consumed a carton of unfiltered cigarettes. As the bus drove past an intersection, I found myself envying a police officer wearing an air filter mask as he directed traffic.

– Last night, I woke up at 3 a.m.

to use the bathroom. As I stepped out of my room and walked towards the common bathrooms I was disturbed to hear scurrying and squeaking behind the large garbage can by the doorway. A black shape that seemed to be the size of a small cat suddenly darted towards me. I screamed like a little girl as I felt wet fur brush against my bare foot. The filthy mammoth rodent dashed into the shadows as I ran back into my room, suppressing my urge to go.

The following morning, I was comforted that the garbage can was no longer vibrating or squeaking. Eager to relieve myself, I entered the bathroom to the sound of splashing, which I assumed came from someone taking a bath. How wrong I was. As I approached the toilet, I was horrified to see a great rat trying to stay afloat in the wash bucket. The bucket was full of water and the rat was struggling to avoid drowning, only its quivering nose sticking above the surface. Terrified, I slowly backed out of the room, suddenly content with my cramps.

– There is only one sports facility on campus: a badminton court. It is located within a large metal barn constructed with corrugated sheets of gray metal, covered by small punctures reminiscent to bullet holes. Despite being covered by a roof, the court is flooded when it rains because of all the gaps and holes in the barn.

One afternoon when I was playing badminton, I heard the sound of water splashing against the concrete floor. When I looked at the roof above my opponent I saw only the bright dots of sunlight. Perplexed, I turned behind me where a pool of water was collecting around the heel of my running shoes. Suddenly I knew what had happened. I looked straight up with disgust and aston-



The guide suggested peering over the edge for a better view. Shaun took the advice; the legs are his.

photo/ Shaun Mehta

ishment to find three monkeys bouncing on the rafters and urinating on me.

– To get anything done here takes much patience. I still do not have textbooks or a student ID card because the bookstore and office are always closed. I received business cards from the school and my information is wrong. In one class, the professor gave us his home phone number in case we had any questions. When I called, the number did not exist. Ah, India.

TRAVEL LOG #2

Exchange at Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB) November 2001

My last trip included a nine-hour train ride in each direction in second class non-air-conditioned accommodations where the squatting bathrooms were covered in human refuse and I shared a sleeping compartment with 72 of my newest Indian friends

and without a pillow or blanket. It took me five weeks to recover.

I finally gathered enough courage to leave the verdant school campus again and travel to the southern state of Tamil Nadu. I visited Hogenakkal Falls, spectacular cataracts that make Niagara Falls look like a leaky faucet. Unlike Niagara Falls, there was absolutely no commercialization; my European friends and I were completely surrounded by wilderness.

Because I am in India, and safety is rarely a concern, I actually was encouraged by my guide (who received his payment in advance) to stand on the rock and peak over the edge of the cliff to admire the raging descending water. I actually took a photograph of my feet hanging over the edge. Cool!

To get to the waterfalls we had to take circular skin-hide boats called coracles. Every few minutes we would reach an island and have to carry the boat across it until we reached another river as if we were living in prehistoric times.

The final leg of the journey to the falls involved crossing a huge sea of jagged rocks and pools of stagnant water before reaching the main river that plummeted to the major swirling chasm below. During this hike, I slipped off the mossy-covered rocks several times and into the pools of water until my socks and shoes were soaking wet.

Thinking I was very smart, I took off my shoes and socks, and decided

to go barefoot like a true adventurer! That was when I discovered that the rocks absorbed the rays of the sun like the inside of a car in the midst of a heat wave. By the time I reached the falls my aching blistering feet felt as if they had walked over a path of burning coal.

Despite being the end of November, it was 35 degrees Celsius and brilliantly sunny, so my friends and I went for a refreshing dip in the streams 50 feet from the edge of the falls. One of my European friends stayed ashore and was confronted by a band of aggressive monkeys who methodically harassed him and stole our bananas. I watched with amazement as each monkey would grab a banana and throw a perfect quarterback type pass to its companions perched on the branches of the surrounding trees.

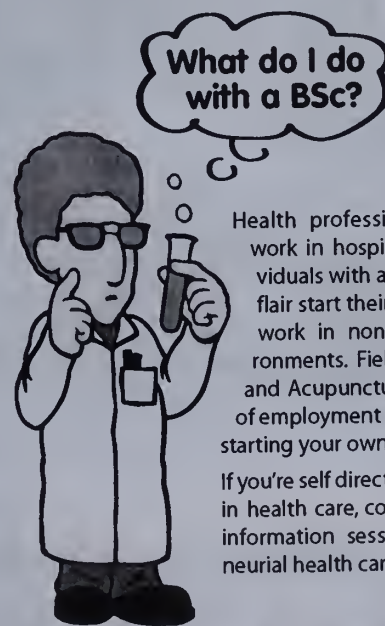
On the way back from our daytrip, the tire of our rented van blew and we were suddenly stranded in the middle of the night at a Punjabi Dhaba (little hut in the middle of nowhere that serves Punjabi food and is roughly equivalent to a truck stop). For an hour we sat waiting for our driver to repair the damaged tire.

During that time, I had a staring match with five South Indians. The five locals gawked at my European friends and me as if we were from another planet. Actually, I am not being completely honest. Two live chickens tied together and sitting in a cardboard box beside me were also staring at me. The one good thing about the situation was that if we had ordered chicken curry, I knew that it would have been cooked fresh.

Oh, if you are wondering, the Indians won the staring match.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Dreams come true after signing on new label

UP CLOSE

BY: MARINA SIGAREVA

AFI, a band out of California that has been making music for over a decade, now find themselves on the cusp of mainstream success. AFI (A Fire Inside) released four full-length albums on indie labels, and will release their first major record label debut on Steven Spielberg's DreamWorks Records.

AFI recently played a sold-out show at the Opera House. Lead singer Davey Havok, along with drummer Adam Carson, bassist Hunter Burgan, and guitarist Jade Puget, anticipate the release of their fifth album, *Sing the Sorrow*, on March 11.

The band put out their own music at the start of their career. Then, they signed with Nitro Records, owned by Brian "Dexter" Holland. After the success of their last album, *The Art of Drowning*, Holland encouraged AFI to find a home with a record label that could give them more exposure.

Havok, one of two original members, had much to say about signing with a large record label, the new album, and his love for music.

He disagrees with media's portrayal of AFI as a goth-punk band. "I think most music that is perceived as punk today is not, in any way, at all," Havok said.

He also said that AFI does not belong to one genre and that many influences are apparent in their music. In general, AFI play a form of aggressive emotional rock.

Havok explained the band switched to DreamWorks because they wanted to

capture as many people as possible. "That's what we've always wanted to do. We went from putting out our own music from a small indie label to a larger indie label and now to DreamWorks, to let people hear our music."

The band was courted by many record labels before signing with DreamWorks. Havok says the band still maintains creative control despite being on a large label.

"We were in a very good position when we left an independent label because we had been doing what we've been doing for so long that no one was coming in and trying to change us, or have any misconception that they were going to create something that wasn't AFI out of AFI. All they wanted was for AFI to be a part of them."

The move up from Nitro seems to be paying off. The first single from *Sing the Sorrow*, 'Girl's Not Grey', is in heavy rotation on many North American radio stations. The band has also been featured recently in Rolling Stone magazine.

While AFI are happy in their new home, changing record labels is a move many fans find odd since the band was commercially and critically successful on an indie label.

The switch has prompted both critics and followers of the band to label them as sell-outs. To this, Havok replies, "Being on a major label and selling out have absolutely nothing to do with one another and anybody who's in that mindset has to reevaluate what they are talking about."

The success of AFI's last album, *The Art of Drowning*, does not faze Havok. He feels no pressure to sell more albums. He would like to reach more people, but AFI's main goal, he says, is to create a record better than their last

one on their own terms. Havok is ecstatic with *Sing the Sorrow*, and whether or not people enjoy it, he believes it is the best thing they've ever done.

Havok says that like the other four albums, the majority of the creative process stops before AFI head into the studio. Puget and Havok write melodies and Havok writes the lyrics, "and everyone contributes their part until it is AFI."

This summer, after their own tour wraps up, AFI will tour with the Vans Warped Tour, and share the bill with the likes of Rancid. When asked if he ever consciously makes his band stand apart from others, Havok says, "It's not conscious and it's not really an effort. We just do stand apart from those bands, especially on a tour like the Warped Tour...I mean we're not a punk band and it's a punk tour."

AFI are known for having a fanatical, obsessive fanbase. Tickets for sold-out shows on this tour sold on Ebay for \$200 US. Before each show, fans scream

"Through our bleeding, we are one," which came from the introduction to the album *Black Sails in the Sunset*. Havok takes this all in stride, citing his honest lyrics and an understanding between the band and the audience as the reason for the energetic performances.

As for the state of music today, Havok said "it's really refreshing...It's much, much better now than it used to be. In listening to the radio and listening to mainstream music you can hear songs that are worthwhile by bands that are actually real bands...I'd rather turn on the radio and hear a lot of the sixties retro bands playing lo-fi rock and roll than what was happening a few years ago...I think things are about to



Havok obviously has more talent than applying eyeliner. photo/Christina Boni
AFI has successfully performed in front of a sold out show at the Opera House in Toronto.

change. It's a good time."

Vans recently came out with a limited edition Vans shoe, so popular Havok doesn't even own one. "It's pretty cool. It's really neat that they gave us the opportunity to do that because skateboarding was a real major part of our lives growing up, all of us. It was a huge influence on us and I don't think I would be doing what I am today if it wasn't for skateboarding."

When we were growing up, when I started skateboarding at the age of eight, the underground music scene and skateboarding went hand in hand, and there was kind of an aggression that was parallel in the skateboarding subculture and the underground music subculture.

And that's what really got me into



the music I am today. So for Vans, a company that's been around since the beginning of skateboarding to take interest in us and do a shoe for us was really cool."

Havok, who loves acting and performing on stage, says if he wasn't in AFI he'd probably be doing some sort of performance, like making music or acting. His favourite Canadian bands are Skinny Puppy and Assemblage 23.

His favourite thing about Toronto is Le Commensal, a vegetarian restaurant, "but only next to the wonderful fanbase AFI have here. Playing shows is my favourite thing about Toronto."

And what about when AFI aren't on tour? "When we're not on tour most of our lives are spent either rehearsing for tour or writing songs."

Zzz... or ...air

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ALBUM PICK OF THE WEEK

Snow
TwoHandsClapping
Virgin Music Canada
3/5

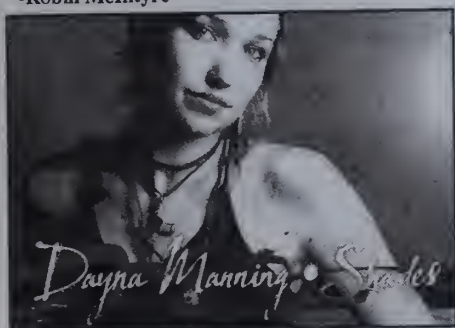


There's something that disturbs me as I listen to a forty something white man singing reggae. However, *Two Hands Clapping* sees the man, previously known as the *Informer*, return to his dancehall reggae roots and incorporate the sounds of pop, R&B and hip-hop for a balanced album. Would you believe that this is Snow's fifth album?

The first single 'Legal' is a good indication of what to expect throughout the album—a blend of reggae and pop. He teams up with rapper Chris Black on the aptly named "Black n' Snow," a hip-hop song that finds Snow delivering his lyrics in a melodic sing-song reggae style. Their second collaboration 'Mistaken Identity' revisits 'Informer' territory, a track about being wrongfully accused of a crime. Other highlights include 'That's My Life', featuring Jelleestone, where Snow questions the motives of his so-called friends. 'Missing You' has potential of becoming a hit song because of its ballad-like lyrics accented by a lively beat.

It's a well packaged album—Snow will definitely put reggae on the charts.

-Robin McIntyre



Dayna Manning
Shades
EMI Music
1/5

Dayna Manning's delicate album *Shades* can easily be mistaken with a country album. *Shades*—a record five years in the making and following Manning's *Volume 1* debut, features music that is in serious need of an energy boost. Lines like, 'I'm the girl who's sometimes more appealing than the gum stuck to your shoe' ('I'm the Girl') and 'Is the person in your bed the same one in your head?' (from 'The Lonely') are pure

Tammy Wynette. Manning, a Juno nominated singer, has been busy

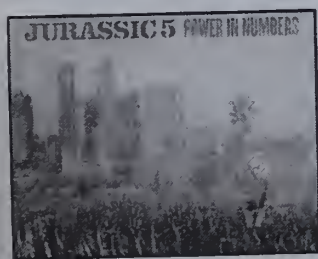
over the past few years. Since the release of *Volume 1*, she has relocated to Toronto and toured extensively in Canada as a support act for Spirit Of The West, 54-40 and Wide Mouth Mason.

Shades is very reflective and routinely melancholic to her previous works. She enjoys adding a personal touch to her music by including her own experiences with relationships and close friends in songs like 'Heather' or 'So Complicated.' The listener can easily discover that Manning is very observant but never contemptuous. Manning takes on the role of a storyteller in 'The Bystander' and in 'The Lonely' she reaches out to others in a effort to validate her own feelings, as she does on 'Normal'.

At such a young age, Manning's experiences stretch out well beyond her years. She takes this opportunity as a song-writer and a musician to blend folk-pop sensibilities with country.

-Andrea Civichino

Jurassic 5
Power In Numbers
Universal
1/5



Once an artist has had a successful album, it's difficult to top that with another one. Such is the case for Jurassic 5 and their latest full-length album, *Power In Numbers*.

Jurassic 5's MC's Chali 2na, Zaakir (Soup), Akil and Marc 7 and DJ's Cut Chemist and Nu-Mark created a weak sounding album with a lack of energy and substantial lyrical content. In the past, J5 have displayed characteristics of stylish wordplay with handclap beats, however, their lack of harmonizing between catchy beats that flow through the speakers and lyrics is consistent through the entire album. Perhaps the group is itching for a new sound.

The album is like a long storybook that you are struggling to get through. It's a multi-layered album with a mix of old school rap. In 'Freedom,' J5 uncover their political views and life choices, 'This Line' features help from Nelly Furtado where they explain the link between friendships and relationships. 'Break' definitely has that old school charm along with 'A Day At The Races', featuring Percy P and Big Daddy Kane.

J5 does promise to 'give you what you ain't used to', however, in track three 'If You Only Knew', J5 leaves the audience with this 'I saw you at the Gold Coast and Melbourne BDO and you fuckin rule.' Unfortunately, I couldn't say this about the album.

-Robin McIntyre

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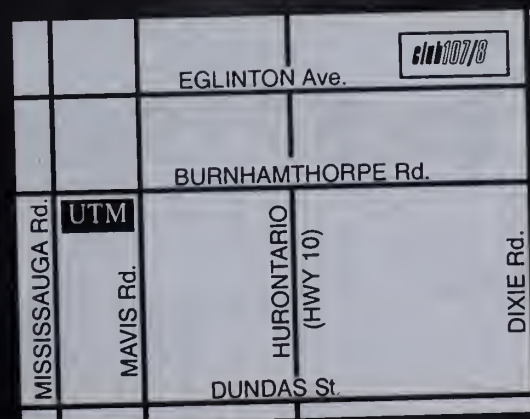


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It only takes 10 minutes to lose interest

MOVIE REVIEW

BY: ROBIN MCINTYRE

I've seen better days! A surprisingly basic excuse for a romantic comedy, *How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days* features unimpressive performances by its two leads Matthew McConaughey and Kate Hudson which sinks the film under an already hopeless script concerning a woman writing an article about dating a guy and then dumping him and transmitting her experiences in an article. Coincidentally, the man that she decides to include in her little experiment makes a bet with his friends that he could make a girl fall in love with him in ten days.

So they begin to date and are completely oblivious to the dark

secret harbored with their friends. She starts to do things to make him dump her, and he is forced to accept her faults.

I'm sure that most of us could stay home and focus on our friend's fucked-up relationships, without putting a hole through your wallet — because we all know how much it costs to watch a movie these days!

Replaying wooing mistakes we've all made, the humorous writing and quirky jokes in this movie gives audience members a chance to laugh at the dilemmas of dating. Unfortunately, the storyline doesn't sustain itself for the full 115 minutes, leaving the final moments to drag on.

One day of their ridiculously accelerated-by-deadlines romance—which begins in a bar and appears to be spontaneous but is in fact a setup—suffices to illustrate the film's problems. At first sexy, willing and halfway sane, Andie delib-

erately sets out to annoy and drive away Ben.

In one case, she invites him to an NBA Finals game and makes him miss the game-winning moments in a very stupid sequence.

The actors barely execute it with conviction, but there's a long road of humiliating chick-flick marathons and busted-up poker games ahead.

How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days definitely could have been a durable chick flick if it was only smart and sensible about the weak



premise.

The movie offers some entertaining moments, but it's more of a disappointing romantic comedy because of an overly crude script and two leads that have seen better days too!

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CELEBRATING 25 YEARS
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Aussie adventure pleases audience

MOVIE REVIEW

BY: ROBIN MCINTYRE

Kangaroo Jack is not as bad as you'd expect it to be, however, it's not going to win an academy award either. It's a respectable film either for the younger viewer or for the young at heart.

The film stars a very grown up Jerry O'Connell and Anthony Anderson. O'Connell is a hairdresser and Anderson has a job delivering TVs.

The cops find out that he's driving in a stolen truck, and as he's speeding away from them, most of the TVs fall out the back. They were supposed to be delivered to

O'Connell's infamous gangster father (Christopher Walken), and since they both cost him millions of dollars in damage, he sends them on a mission to hand an envelope full of cash to his contact in Australia.

After a brief mishap, the two end up in Australia to deliver an envelope. While they are there, they accidentally run over a kangaroo.

Assuming the kangaroo's dead, they place Anderson's lucky red jacket on it, along with a pair of shades, and take pictures with him.

Little do they know, the kangaroo isn't dead, ends up kicking O'Connell to the ground and hops away wearing the jacket which contains the envelope in one of the jacket pockets.

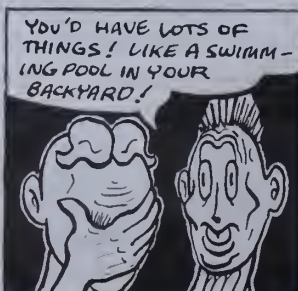
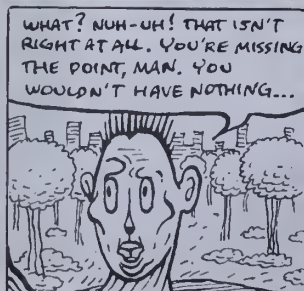
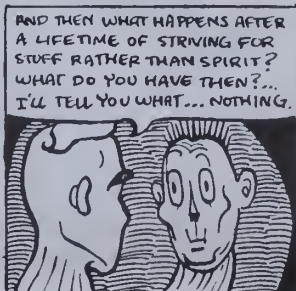
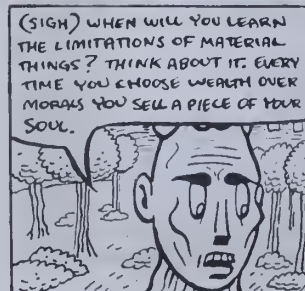
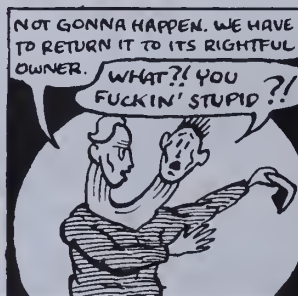
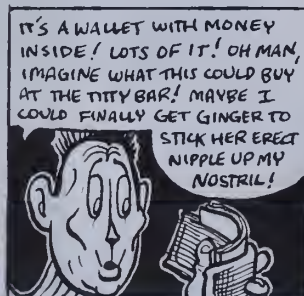
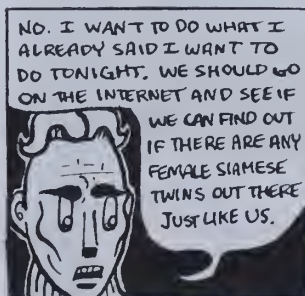
I enjoyed the first half of the film, though the gags were predictable. I was able to appreciate them for their worth. Anderson is

funny and often overlooked as a comic actor.

Past the second half, the film fizzles and resorts to countless crude gags to get a laugh. Of course, the billions of kids in the audience found the camels-passing-gas scene to be hysterically funny, but anyone with an I.Q. over 50 could see the punch line coming a mile away.

The movie is decent one of what it is, a lowball comedy with an extraneous hook to distinguish an otherwise standard plot. It's mostly brainless and harmless, with two creditable lead performances and the occasional solid joke.

Nevertheless, there was enough action and excitement throughout the movie to keep me awake. Not to mention the beautiful Estella Warren. *'Kangaroo Jack'* is best for the kiddies, but adults should also find it bearable.



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SPORTS

Uncertainty looms for teams in playoff picture

BY "THE COMMISH" JON LEE

The end is near. It's the last week of the regular season as teams fight for playoff positions. Here is how each division stands.

In division one, there is a fight for the top spot that will be decided in this week's Game of the Week between the Div. 1 Rookies and the Waterboyz (see last week's issue for preview). It's especially tight considering how the Wildcats tied the Boyz to shock their high octane offence. The last two spots are also not a lock yet as Fury holds onto third and the Wildcats and Upset City face each other for the fourth spot or higher this week (again see last week's Medium for preview). By the time you read this, the only sure thing is Iron Mixedbreed is out.

The Eastern Conference has the Milkmen virtually locking up first place, their second consecutive conference title. Red Army has second place and sit to see who they play between the Flaming Amazons and HoLoHo, who both play this week. Team Defiance is out.

The Western Conference is decided for playoff spots. The Whalers cruise to first place and a bye, a second division crown for them. The Sawmill Valley Trailblazers make the playoffs for the first time in their storied franchise as the second seed on virtue of tiebreakers, and the Jets locked up third place with a win over the Agents last week. The Agents are out for the first time in 3 years and are joined by the 5-Year Burnouts on the sidelines.

Division One Wrap Ups

Fury gets back on track with win over Upset City 12-1

Upset City wasn't up to par with the defending champs, getting their lone goal on an own goal by Fury. Neil Meneses made his return to net to get Fury the win. Captain Mike "The Ace" Acedo led his team again with 4 goals and 4 assists, while Adam Daly and Mike Sudeyko also had 4 goals each.

Wildcats shock again with a tie against league best Waterboyz, 5-5

The Wildcats keep showing that they are legit threats to the top team. They almost won this game too, if not for Robi Frankovich tying the game in the last minute of the game from a feed from Mikey El-Zoobi, who ended with a goal and a pair of assists. Mike Wach did his best in this game with a four goal performance. Wildcats goalie Martin Warych is making a name for himself by keeping the games close for his team.

Shorthanded Rookies still win over the Iron Mixedbreed 15-6

Both teams were short on the bench, but "The Hurricane" Pardeep Nagra led the way for the Div. 1 Rookies with 4 goals and five assists. Sam Gill returned to have a good effort with a hat trick and 4 assists, while Steve Freitas and Kevin Lee had five points each. Mike Ross was again the top player for the team, also known as Plastic Wrap, as he scored 5 of his team's 6 goals.

Division One previews

Primetime Tuesday game

Fury vs. Iron Mixedbreed, Tuesday @ 2PM

The Mixedbreed can at least wrap up the season by upsetting Fury, who

is trying to clinch a playoff spot. Not an easy task unless Fury goalie Neil Meneses is not in net again. Captain Mike Acedo has progressively recovered from an early season slump to lead this team. Mike Sudeyko, Adam Daly and the rest of Fury have also come out last game to be the solid team that they can be. Mike Ross of the Mixedbreed is making a name for himself, averaging at least three goals a game, but his team mates have shown flashes of greatness as well but just have lucked out on hitting the net. That luck better change to avoid going winless this season.

Pick: Fury; Point Spread: 7

zons to the Milkmen later in the week. The Commish hopes they play because they got a top notch goalie in Kevin Spence and a star in the making with Jordan Latorre. They could make some noise in the playoffs. Team Defiance is playing for pride and the role of spoilers. Their speed will help with players like Shazad and Shahid. The Commish is not trying last name spelling here though...captain and goalie for Defiance Andrew Cheung is hanging in there while learning the pace of the league.

Pick: HoLoHo; Point Spread: 3

pace he did both ways in the win over Team Defiance, and if the Milkmen don't deliver this week as they got first place and a bye locked up. But they may not want to go into the playoffs with a loss, considering they did last year and lost eventually to the Rage. The good thing is that the Rage player play for them now, and in particular Greg Clarence is leading in scoring in the East. Captain Matt Baptista will likely keep his team's mind on winning so the Milkmen can go into the bye week with some more confidence.

Pick: Milkmen; Point Spread: 2

Division Two: Western Conference

5-Year Burnouts vs. Trailblazers, Tuesday @ 10AM

The Trailblazers have finally found the trail to success and are on their way to a first round match up with the Jets who get the bye this week. The Blazers should still to finish on a good note to keep spirits high, as Cory Johnson and captain Scott Reidel has this team clicking well on offence and defence. The Burnouts are just trying to get a win while staying out of the penalty box. Burnouts goalie Mo Jawhari was good in net this year as the lone bright spot despite picking up some key free agents during the off season. Another name change to the Rangers may be in order.

Pick: 'Blazers; Point Spread: 5

Stay tuned for the next edition as it will be filled with predictions for this year's playoff series.

Picks Record: 17-7-5
Spreads Record: 10-17-2



Div. 1 Rookies goalie Andrew Rabba makes a glove save during his team's 15-6 victory. The Rookies will now face the Waterboyz with the winner claiming top spot in the standings. photo/Darryl Sequeira

Division Two: Eastern Conference

HoLoHo vs. Team Defiance, Tuesday @ 4PM

HoLoHo can make the playoffs with a win and a loss by the Ama-

Milkmen vs. Flaming Amazons, Wednesday @ 10AM

As mentioned above, this is also for the playoff lives of the Amazons. They may be able to squeak one out if Erik Cisarovsky plays at the same

Division Two analysis

BY VINCE CHENG

Whalers [-9.5] vs. Agents: Monday @ 9AM

Whalers: The Whalers look to pad their stats in this game. Maybe goaltender Matthew Carrier will even score.

Agents: If the Agents want to make the playoffs, they must upset the high-flying Whalers. Look for Simon Poon, Rafiq Hakim and Big Jon Lee to step up if this Free Agent squad wants to make the playoffs.

5-Year Burnouts vs. Trailblazers [-0.5]: Thursday @ 9am

5-Year Burnouts: A disappointing season for the talented, yet gritty veterans.

Trailblazers: This team has already secured a place in the playoffs when they defeated the Jets in Week 3. With all-stars Corey Johnson and Chris Pedro playing the way they are at the

moment, Trailblazers could be a force to be reckoned with when the playoffs begin.

Ho Lo Ho [-6.5] vs. Defiance: Tuesday @ 3pm

Ho Lo Ho: Not really sure what is happening with this team.

Defiance: Look for the lethal combination of Shazah and Shahid to strike again.

Milkmen [-5.5] vs. Flaming Amazons: Wednesday @ 10am

Milkmen: With Greg Clarence and Matt Baptista carrying this talented team, this team will go far and may even win the Division 2 championship.

Flaming Amazons: Erik and Nick will need to step up big time if they want to grab the last playoff spot. Also, look for talented players such as, Adam Stewart, Tamal Sohorab, and Ray Sobaram to chip in offensively and defensively.

Agents earn shutout

BY GINA RAJACK

The second game of the women's ball hockey season got underway as the Superstars took on the Free Agents. Both teams showed a lot of enthusiasm throughout the entire game despite the short benches.

Chris Mayers opened up the scoring for the Free Agents and added another goal in the second period. Silvia Baretto also notched two goals for the Free Agents. Superstars' goalie, Nazia Khan played

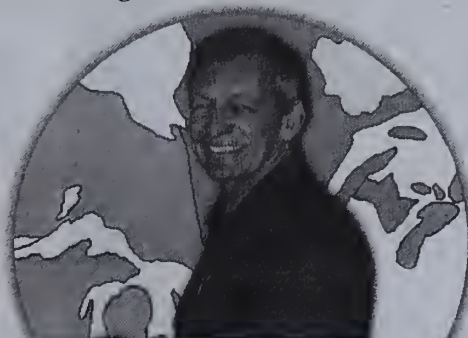
excellent as she effortlessly stopped many tough shots to keep her team in the game. Jenn Chapman was also solid between the pipes as she earned her first shutout of the season.

The game ended with the score of 4-0 in favour of the Free Agents. The Agents have a challenging game ahead as they take on the Bond Girls. The game will be a battle for first place in the three team league. The ball drops at 8am on February 13.

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Men's soccer defeat Scarborough

BY GERGIN NAOUMOV

The men's indoor soccer team continued its resurgent play with an impressive 4-3 victory over the Scarborough Scrubs. The highlight of the game, and possibly the season, was an awe-inspiring volley from player-coach Steve Freitas. The play began with a UTM defender lobbing the ball from near his own goal-line towards the Scarborough net. Freitas ran under the ball and blasted it to the same spot where his mom hides the sardine cans – top shelf. The epic proportions of the goal cannot be overstated. Although not quite on the level of Al Bundy's four touchdowns in one game, this single event can redeem Freitas' life even if he is to become a complete failure.

The game also saw the triumphant return of Shane "Up in Smoke" Fernandez. After a self-imposed wrist injury in warm-ups and several

vicious tackles from UTSC players, Fernandez bounced back to score the game-winning goal on a penalty kick.

If the veterans continue their strongly play and the rookies don't get whoaed too much, the team should be in good position to win their third consecutive title.

The team will look for their fourth victory of the season on February 10 when they play Rotman at 9:00pm at the Athletic Centre.

MEN'S INTRAMURAL DIVISION TWO BALL HOCKEY STANDINGS Eastern Conference

TEAM	GP	W	L	T	DF	GF	GA	PTS
Red Army	4	3	1	0	0	22	15	10
Milkmen	3	3	0	0	0	21	10	9
Flaming Amazons	3	1	2	0	0	21	24	5
Ho Lo Ho	3	1	1	0	1	11	11	4
Team Defiance	3	0	3	0	0	17	32	3

MEN'S INTRAMURAL DIVISION TWO BALL HOCKEY STANDINGS Western Conference

TEAM	GP	W	L	T	DF	GF	GA	PTS
Whalers	3	3	0	0	0	19	8	9
Jets	4	2	2	0	0	27	27	8
Trailblazers	3	2	1	0	0	21	17	7
Free Agents	3	1	2	0	0	11	19	5
5-Year Burnouts	3	0	3	0	0	9	16	3

WOMEN'S BALL HOCKEY STANDINGS

TEAM	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	P
Bond Girls	1	1	0	0	10	2	3
Free Agents	1	1	0	0	4	0	3
Superstars	2	0	2	0	2	14	2

UTM pulls out win

BY STACEY O'NEILL

UTM's women's volleyball team continues to dominate in the more competitive tri-campus league. After a sour defeat last weekend UTM bounced back to beat the St. George white team on February 6 in four sets.

After a slow start and losing the first game, UTM dug deep to pull out a win by winning the next three games. With powerful hitting from Barb Sanders, Jessica Self and Nina Demowska, the Lady Eagles dominated the St. George teams in kills. Although faced with a very good defensive team Sanders managed to contribute 14 kills totaling 40 kills to lead the league.

The strong hits were unavoidable due to setter Mel Lui's magic hands. The smart setter played an amazing game and was cheered on by injured setter Stacey O'Neill who is out for the rest of the season due to a broken finger. Sarah Boudreau and Robyn Thomas were blocking machines. Any balls that managed to get through were dug out by quick moving Mel Bel-dock.

Chelsey Davey, Dernowska and Boudreau played amazing defensively and contributed to the win with their strong serves. In addition to the women's overall strong play, UTM's bootie shaking and high spirits on the court prove this team is unstoppable!



Centre Robyn Thomas delivers a vicious smash during the Lady Eagles tri-campus volleyball game. The girls won their match three sets to one and improved their record to 3-1.

TOP 10 SCORERS-DIVISION 2 EASTERN CONFERENCE

NAME	G	A
Erik Cisarovsky	7	6
Greg Clarence	7	5
Shahzad Khan	6	4
Shahid Amlani	6	3
Matt Baptista	6	1
Jordan Latorre	5	2
Ian Mitchell	5	1
Justin Sconci	5	1
Gregg Cullen	4	2
Mark Samoszewski	4	2

TOP 10 SCORERS-DIVISION 2 WESTERN CONFERENCE

NAME	G	A
Dave Kuszka	11	5
Paul Kurevicious	12	3
Cory Johnson	10	1
Chris Jackson	7	3
Glenn House	5	2
Matt Capobianco	4	2
Jon Slota	3	1
Fadi Mutlak	4	0
Vince Cheng	2	2
Jon Brown	1	3

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Lady Eagles have a great week; defend their title

By J. SWISH

The UTM women's basketball team defended their U of T at Scarborough Extramural Tournament Championship Title in fine style the first weekend of February. The team was a perfect 4 and 0 with 3 wins over their Tri-Campus League rivals from the St. George campus.

In the first game of the day UTM played St. George White. UTM had only 5 players for that game due to class commitments and the St. George team had eight. U of T White held a slim 19-16 lead at the half, but the UTM players were just catching their second wind. Down by as much as eight points in the second half UTM battled back to tie the game with under 50 seconds remaining. Great defense on two St. George White attempts led to a steal by Steph Kishimoto. A quick time-out with seven seconds left UTM with the last chance to shoot to win. Kishimoto got the ball from a perfectly executed inbound and drove down to the baseline for a jump shot at the buzzer. The shot went up and she fouled at

the buzzer. With no players on the court and no time remaining, Kishimoto hit the second shot of the pair to take the win 27-26. Kishimoto had 11 points and Lindsey Sones added six to lead UTM in scoring.

have thought that the fresh legs would mean for an easy victory over the weaker Centennial College team. However, this was not the case and UTM was down by as many as 10 points in the first half. After a time-out the team responded with

half. In the second half UTM began to really play as a team. Great defense held Centennial to only one point for the entire half and UTM won the game 32-16. Kishimoto had 10 points, Patty Card and Sones chipped in with eight points each.

Game 3 featured a must win game with U of T Blue, coached by UTM ex co-coach Steve Manchur. A loss would have meant a four-way tie for first place in the tournament with all teams having a 2-1 record. UTM dominated the first half and was up 22-11 at the break. However the Blue team would not quit and with less than a minute left they managed to tie the score. A huge three pointer with 48 seconds left by Jen Sotodeh gave UTM a lead they would not give up as they went on to win the game 36-31. Kishimoto had 11 points; Sotodeh had nine, while Linda Williams added six points.

With a perfect 3-0 round robin record, UTM advanced to the final to face St. George White. The White team defeated a tough Sheridan College team to eliminate them from the final. UTM was hoping to play Sheridan in the final to avenge a loss to them in the final of the Sheridan

College tournament earlier this month. Facing the White team with a deeper bench than in the first game gave UTM a much easier game. UTM led by 10 at the half 18-8 and never really was challenged as they cruised to a 31-23 victory to capture their second straight UTS Women's Extramural Basketball Tourney Championship title. The entire UTM team scored points in the final. Lindsey Sones and Steph Kishimoto had eight a piece, Patty Card had seven and Diana Kwong, Dom Cantin, Shelly Roque, Linda Williams and Jen Sotodeh had two points each.

Coach Jack Krist was extremely pleased with the team's efforts. "We played extremely well as a team. I think we have served notice to the St. George teams that we will be a strong force in the Tri-Campus league. We won this tournament without two starters, Marija Kosovski and Steph Van de Ven. All the other players were able to step it up a notch".

UTM's next home game is on Monday, February 10th at 8:00 p.m. when they take on their suburban counterparts, Scarborough, in Tri-Campus League action.



UTM point guard Stephanie Kishimoto throws up a shot during the team's tri-campus league victory on February 6. The team defended their extramural title the next day going undefeated.

photo/Rishi Chugh

In the second game UTM got three more players to the roster. You would

a burst of energy and great defense which led to UTM taking a 17-15 lead into the

MedSci left on life support

By MIGUEL CO

After a win against St. Michael's College the UTM men's division two basketball team had to face MedSci. With Jordan Latorre suspended due to two technical fouls received during the game with St. Mike's, UTM needed to step up their game. With great defense and consistent offence, they would definitely accomplish this.

UTM had a good start, going on a 10-0 run, led by Andrew Rabba and Jack Lin. Andrew Rabba played exceptional defense,

scoring 15 points and adding seven blocks. UTM played flawless defense in the first half, scoring 22 points and holding MedSci to two points. During the break, the coaches were persistent in informing the team not to settle down and to keep hustling. The coaches wanted to prevent losing their lead like they did last semester against Woodsworth, so they pushed the players to stay alert and push the ball down the court.

During the second half, UTM never stopped with their dominance, with Jack

Lin leading the scoring and with the whole team's dominating defense. MedSci came out with a good strategy trying to break UTM's defense zone but with only a bit of luck. MedSci scored 16 points in the second half, compared to UTM's 29 points. UTM dominated the game, beating MedSci with a score of 51-18.

After this game, UTM looks like they have a very good chance in running for the playoffs, but the coaches just want to take each game one at a time.

Smashing victory

By JESSICA SELF

On February 4th the UTM men's volleyball team was confronted here at home with a game against Grad House. The UTM guys knew how important a win was to them and as a result came out strong and ready to play. UTM quickly jumped out to an early lead of 9-2 with the help of some great hits by Colin Doyle, and Chris Ogoneh.

Thanks to some fantastic double blocks by Doyle and Cyrus Zahiri, UTM was able to shut the game down for

Grad House winning 25-19.

In the second set the UTM guys showed that they could carry through their intensity. Jeremy Jackson scored an ace with the first serve of the game, and from then, the guys never looked back. Thanks to a good overall performance by Wayne Chin and some smashing attacks by Jeremy Jackson, the guys maintained control of the game and won 25-14. The UTM Eagles play their next game on February 11th downtown at 9:00pm.



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Fit Stop Schedule

Looking to get fit? Pick up a copy of our Monthly Fitness Schedule. See the Fit Stop for a schedule.

Friday, January 31 – Friday, February 28

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
12:10pm – 1:00pm	Boot Camp Miranda Macdonald Teaching Studio	Step & Sculpt Brenda Mazur Teaching Studio (women only)	Pilates Jodi Livingston Gym	Kickbox Challenge Tracy Lennertz Teaching Studio	Pilates Jodi Livingston Teaching Studio
1:10pm – 2:00pm	Cycle Circuit Aubrey Iwaniw Fitness Centre		Power Yoga Carin Lowerson Teaching Studio	Cycle Circuit Aubrey Iwaniw Fitness Centre	Pilates Jodi Livingston Teaching Studio
4:10pm – 5:00pm			Cycle Fit Michelle Genua Fit Stop		
5:10pm – 6:00pm	On The Ball Johanna Quinn Teaching Studio	20/20/20 Marietta Xeni Teaching Studio	Kickbox Challenge Johanna Quinn Teaching Studio		
6:10pm – 7:00pm	Body Blast Tracy Lennertz Teaching Studio		Cycle Circuit Aubrey Iwaniw Fitness Centre		

Please note there will be a reduced schedule for reading week available at the Fit Stop.

Interfaculty Tournaments Coed Broomball

Entry meeting: Tues. Feb. 25,
Room 1114 at noon.

All interested players must attend (or send a representative). We need at least 10 people in order to enter a team. The tournament date is Sunday, March 9. 6 players including goalie on the ice, 3 players must be female.

Indoor Cricket

Entry meeting Tues. Feb. 25*
Room 1114 at noon.

Tournament date – Sunday, March 9

*Note: The meeting date has changed from Feb. 20 to the 25

Intramurals

Men's, Women's and Coed
Badminton Doubles Tournament

Fri. Feb. 28, 5:30-8:00pm.

Enter at the gym between 5:30-6:00pm

Tri Campus Home Games

We need your support. Come and watch some great basketball. Monday, February 10 – Women's Basketball UTM vs UTSC (Scarborough) at 8:00pm in the gym.

UTM lead the pack

By STEVE MANCHUR

UTM men's division one hoops got back to its winning ways with a 91-79 victory over OISE. With the victory, and subsequent Law loss, UTM finds itself with a magic number of one to clinch home court advantage throughout the playoffs.

UTM controlled the game against OISE from the tip-off. However, OISE, who were led by former McMaster star Doug Doyle, never let UTM pull away. They kept hovering around the 8-12 point mark, at one point closing to

within five points, but UTM's superior strength in speed and skill propelled them to victory.

Sacha Francisco led all UTM scorers with a game high 30 points. Dwayne Grant continued his excellent play with his fourth straight 20 point game, popping in 20 points. Henry Rogers had 15 points, while Eric Liao added 11 points.

UTM will travel way out east to battle their rivals from UTSC next Wednesday. UTSC has had this game marked on their calendars since UTM's 91-57 thrashing of them on opening night.

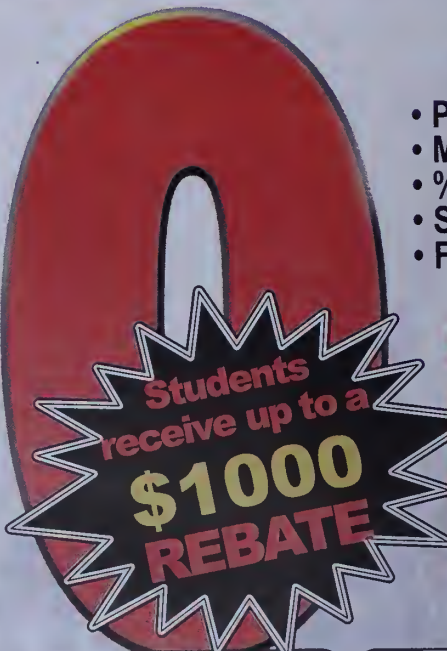


Guard Eric Liao scores over an OISE defender (above). photos/Darryl Sequeira
Veteran guard Rohit Sethi sets up the offense on this out of bounds play as forwards Andy Chen (#24) and Sacha Francisco (left) go in motion. The team soundly defeated OISE 91-79 and play UTSC next.

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